

Appendix 28 Reeds Grove Group

1.0 Introduction

The Reeds Grove Group is a composite of six allotments that are managed together as one unit. According to the RMP, Reeds Grove Group (collectively) encompasses approximately 8,667 acres of public land, 6,225 acres of private land, and 640 acres of state land, as follows:

Reeds Grove Group Allotments	Acreage, per RMP		
	Public Land	Private Land	State Land
Busch Individual #56	1,701	80	0
J Keithley #165	920	0	60
Potter Individual #220	158	760	0
Hopper Creek #233	3,084	5,345	580
Mrs. Seid Individual #234	775	0	0
Pine #235	2,029	40	0
TOTAL	8,667	6,225	640

The Reeds Grove Group of allotments is managed as one operation between two permittees. Livestock grazing is on a season-long basis, incorporating daily riding so that cattle are moved throughout the area in a systematic manner (similar to a rotational grazing system). Average livestock use for each allotment has been determined from submitted actual use reports and/or annual grazing billings, which can be found in the specific allotment discussions of Appendix A.

Through the Evaluation and Determination, it was determined that, for all of the allotments:

- Livestock management is in conformance with the Watershed (#1), Riparian Areas (#2), Stream Channels and Flood Plains (#3), Native Plant Communities (#4), and Threatened and Endangered Species (#8) standards;
- Compliance with all applicable guidelines for livestock grazing management is being achieved.

2.0 Description of the Alternatives

2.1 Alternative A – No Action /Continue Current Management

Livestock grazing management would continue, with both grazing permits expiring February 28, 2013. Mandatory terms and conditions of the grazing permits are:

For Kenneth Seid:

Allotment	Livestock	Season of Use	Percent Public Land	Grazing Preference		
				Active	Suspended	Total
Busch Ind #56	150 Cattle	04/20 to 06/06	95%	225	0	225
Hopper Crk #233	179 Cattle	05/16 to 06/30	100%	271	0	270
J Keithley #165	100 Cattle	05/01 to 05/31	100%	102	0	101
Pine #235	150 Cattle	04/16 to 05/31	100%	227	0	226
Mrs Seid Ind #234	45 Cattle	04/15 to 06/01	100%	71	0	71
TOTAL	624 Cattle			896		893

Following are allotment specific terms and conditions attached to the grazing permit:

1. Livestock turnout dates are subject to Lower Snake River District range readiness criteria.
2. You are required to properly complete, sign and date an Actual Grazing Use Report Form 4130-5 for each allotment. The completed forms must be submitted to this office within 15 days from the last day of your authorized annual grazing use.
3. Supplemental feeding is limited to salt, mineral and/or protein in block, granular, or liquid form. If used, these supplements must be placed at least one-quarter (1/4) mile away from any riparian area, spring, stream, meadow, aspen stand, playa, water development, or special status plant location.
4. You are prohibited from disturbing items of cultural, archeological and historical value on federal land including, but not limited to, petroglyphs, ruins, historic buildings, artifacts, human remains, items placed intentionally with or near human remains, items devoted to traditional Native American religious ceremonies, or items having ongoing historical traditional or cultural importance to Indian tribes. If you discover any of these items on federal lands, you must immediately stop ongoing activities connected with the discovery, make a reasonable effort to protect the discovered remains, items or objects, and notify the BLM Field Manager of the discovery.

For Tom and Kelly Seid:

Allotment	Livestock	Season of Use	Percent Public Land	Grazing Preference		
				Active	Suspended	Total
Potter Individual #220	60 Cattle	05/01 to 07/15	14%	21	0	21

Following are allotment specific terms and conditions attached to the grazing permit:

1. Turn-out is subject to Boise District range readiness criteria.
2. Your certified Actual Use Report is due within 15 days of completing your authorized annual grazing use.
3. Salt and/or supplement shall not be placed within one-quarter (1/4) mile of springs, streams, meadows, aspen stands, playas or water developments.
4. Changes to the scheduled use require prior approval.
5. Trailing activities must be coordinated with the BLM prior to initiation. A trailing permit or similar authorization may be required prior to crossing public lands.
6. Livestock exclosures located within your grazing allotment(s) are closed to all domestic grazing use.
7. Range improvements must be maintained in accordance with the cooperative agreements and range improvements permits in which you are a signator or assignee. All maintenance of

range improvements within a Wilderness Study Area requires prior consultation with the Authorized Officer.

8. All appropriate documentation regarding base property leases, lands offered for exchange-of-use, and livestock control agreements must be approved prior to turn-out. Leases of land and/or livestock must be notarized prior to submission and be in compliance with Boise District Policy.
9. Failure to pay the grazing bill within 15 days of the due date specified shall result in a late fee assessment of \$25.00 or 10 percent of the grazing bill, whichever is greater, not to exceed 250.00 payment. Payment made later than 15 days after the due date, shall include the appropriate late fee assessment. Failure to make payment within 30 days livestock may be a violation of 43 CFR 4140.(b)(1) and shall result in action by the Authorized Officer under 43 CFR 4150.1 and 4160.1-2.

2.2 Alternative B – Proposed Action

The Proposed Action consists of incorporating six allotments, or portions thereof, into one allotment, called the Reeds Grove Allotment.

Based on field mapping of existing fences and information provided by the permittee, the acreage for the Reeds Grove Group of allotments has been recalculated. There are now 398 fewer acres of public land, 401 fewer acres of private land and 36 fewer acres of state land in the allotment than are shown in the RMP. The Reeds Grove Group now contains approximately 14,697 acres, including 8,269 acres of public land (56 percent), 5,824 acres of private land (40 percent), and 604 acres of state land (4 percent). These revised acres reflect the most accurate and up-to-date information, and would be used for the new term permit.

Reeds Grove Group Allotments	Acreage, per GIS		
	Public Land	Private Land	State Land
Busch Individual #56	1,724	30	0
J Keithley #165	1,172	24	41
Potter Individual #220	156	907	0
Hopper Creek #233	2,323	4,746	563
Mrs Seid Individual #234	599	0	0
Pine #235	2,295	117	0
TOTAL	8,269	5,824	604

To incorporate updated allotment information and current grazing management guidance, it is proposed to:

1. Consolidate six grazing allotments into one allotment, called the Reeds Grove Allotment #1365. The affected allotments include Busch Individual #56, J Keithley #165, Potter Individual #220, Mrs. Seid Individual #234, Pine #235, and a portion (2,533 acres of public land) of Hopper Creek #233.
2. A 459 acre portion of Hopper Creek Allotment #233 located in Section 36, T16N, R6W, and Section 1, T15N, R6W (not included in the allotment acreage identified above), would become a separate allotment, called Limestone Allotment #1363, which would contain 434 acres of public land (95 percent) and 25 acres of private land (5 percent).

3. The boundaries of the Reeds Grove and Limestone allotments would correspond to existing fencelines;
4. Modify the percent public land term of the grazing permit to 56 percent for Reeds Grove and to 95 percent for Limestone Allotment;
5. Consolidate the two grazing permits (Kenneth Seid, and Tom and Kelly Seid) for the Reeds Grove and Limestone Allotments into one; the name on the consolidated permit would be “Kenneth or Tom Seid”;
6. Renew the grazing permit showing maximum authorizations for livestock numbers, season-of-use, and AUMs (each of these columns would be stand-alone sections of the permit therefore standard method for calculating AUMs would not apply). Annual flexibility of livestock numbers and/or season-of-use would be allowed based on seasonal circumstances (example - range readiness; variations in permittee’s management; but not limited to these situations). Management flexibility would be allowed provided livestock use remains within the sideboards of maximum livestock numbers and season-of-use, and without exceeding authorized AUMs;
 - a. Grazing would be conducted in such a manner that periodic rest or deferment during the critical growth stages would be provided (Guideline #4).
 - b. Daily riding/moving of livestock would be an integral part of the overall allotment management so that public lands would not be grazed during the same time period in consecutive years;
7. Use Annual Indicators to insure continued conformance with Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

Based on the proposed action, livestock grazing would be authorized for a maximum of 860 AUMs from mid-April through the end of June for the Reeds Grove Allotment, and a maximum of 54 AUMs from June 6 to October 15 for the Limestone Allotment. Generally, livestock would be on the allotments for a two month period prior to moving onto the National Forest. Terms and conditions necessary to regulate grazing activities on public land would be added to the grazing permit. Annual indicators would be used to describe utilization criteria. Term of the renewed grazing permit would be for ten years, from March 01, 2009 to February 28, 2019, as follows:

Allotment	Livestock	Season of Use	Percent Public Land	Grazing Preference		
				Active	Suspended	Total
Reeds Grove #1365	975 Cattle	04/15 to 06/30	56%	860	0	860
Limestone #1363	49 Cattle	06/06 to 10/15	95%	54	0	54

Following are allotment specific Terms and Conditions to be attached to the grazing permit:

1. Livestock grazing for Reeds Grove Allotment and Limestone Allotment will comply with Field Manager’s Decision that became final on (intentionally left blank at this time, date to be inserted when the decision becomes final).
2. Authorized AUMs would not be exceeded on public lands. Livestock numbers and season of use, as shown above, indicate maximums that would be allowed under this permit. Permittee has discretion to manage within these numbers, provided overuse does not occur on public land.
3. Changes to the scheduled use require prior approval, on an annual basis.

4. The Annual Grazing Use Report (BLM Form 4130-5) must be properly completed, signed, dated and submitted within 15 days of completing your authorized annual grazing use.
5. Annual maintenance of range improvements would be completed prior to livestock entry of the allotment.
6. Livestock turn-out is subject to Boise District range readiness criteria.
7. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(b), permittee must notify the BLM Field Manager, by telephone followed with written confirmation, immediately upon discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony on federal land. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c), permittee must immediately stop any ongoing activities connected with the discovery and make a reasonable effort to protect discovered remains or object.
8. Salt and/or mineral blocks shall not be placed on public lands within one quarter (¼) mile of springs, streams, meadows, riparian habitats or aspen stands.

Flexibility

Scheduled turn out dates by pasture may be adjusted based on Range Readiness and Annual Indicators. Grazing schedule adjustments require prior approval from the Authorized Officer.

Based on the results of monitoring associated with Annual Grazing Use Indicators, periodic modifications to authorized grazing management may be imposed. Monitoring data collected would be used to ensure adherence with Annual Indicators, listed below. Modifications may include, but are not limited to: duration of grazing use by pasture, and/or reducing livestock numbers by pasture. These modifications would be coordinated annually with the permittee and incorporated into the annual authorization.

Annual Indicators

Adherence to the annual indicators listed below, and the prescribed grazing management program are expected to make progress towards meeting, and maintaining achievement of the Standards for Rangeland Health and land use plan objectives. Periodic collection, evaluation, and interpretation of monitoring data would provide an indication of the potential success of the grazing management prescription.

1. Average utilization by livestock on key bunchgrass species would not exceed 40 percent during the period of critical growth (May 1 through June 30), and 50 percent outside the critical growth period.
2. Utilization on shrubs would not exceed 30 percent of current year's production as determined by Browse Removal Method, or other approved methods.

Long Term Indicator Criteria for Riparian Areas

1. Increase riparian plant cover, particularly late seral sedges, rushes, and willows on stream banks as measured on riparian trend (Greenline) transects;
2. Increase bank stability to 85 percent or more, as measured on riparian trend (Greenline) transects;
3. Decrease in greenline to greenline channel width (width/depth ratio).

3.0 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

Affected environment is discussed in the main body of this EA, with additional information provided below.

3.1 Vegetation

3.1.1 Affected Environment – Vegetation

Concentrations of cattle are not found in any given area due to the use of range riders, therefore impacts are minimal. Busch Individual and Pine allotments are showing some departure from ecological site descriptions, but overall the allotments in Reeds Grove Group are meeting the rangeland health standard for watersheds.

3.1.2 Environmental Consequences – Vegetation

3.1.2.1 Alternative A

The Idaho rangeland health standard for native plant communities is being met on this allotment. Livestock grazing management under this alternative is expected to continue to meet the standard by maintaining or promoting healthy productive and diverse native animal habitat and populations of native plants appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform to provide proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling and energy flow.

3.1.2.2 Alternative B

The Idaho rangeland health standard for native plant communities is being met on this allotment. Livestock grazing management changes proposed under this alternative are expected to continue to meet the standard by maintaining or promoting healthy productive and diverse native animal habitat and populations of native plants appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform to provide proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling and energy flow.

3.2 Soils

3.2.1 Affected Environment – Soils

Concentrations of cattle are not found in any given area due to the use of range riders, therefore impacts are minimal. Busch Individual and Pine allotments are showing some departure from ecological site descriptions, but overall the allotments in Reeds Grove Group are meeting the rangeland health standard for watersheds.

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences – Soils

3.2.2.1 Alternative A

The Idaho rangeland health standard for watersheds, based on soil site stability and hydrologic function, is being met on this allotment. Livestock grazing management under this alternative is expected to continue to meet the standard by promoting proper infiltration, retention, and release of water appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform to provide proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling and energy flow.

3.2.2.2 Alternative B

The Idaho rangeland health standard for watersheds, based on soil site stability and hydrologic function, is being met on this allotment. Livestock grazing management changes proposed under this alternative are expected to continue to meet the standard by promoting proper infiltration, retention, and release of water appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform to provide proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling and energy flow.

3.3 Wildlife – Including Special Status Animal Species

3.3.1 Affected Environment – Wildlife – Including Special Status Animal Species

Upland shrub communities including big sagebrush and bitterbrush had a healthy understory of grasses and forbs that provide good habitat for ground and shrub nesting birds, small mammals, reptiles, and big game. Primary special status animal species are shrub-steppe nesting bird species.

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences – Wildlife – Including Special Status Animal Species

3.3.2.1 Alternative A

The Idaho rangeland health standard for special status animal species is being met on the allotments in Reeds Grove Group. Livestock grazing management under this alternative is expected to continue to meet the standard by maintaining or promoting healthy productive and diverse native animal habitat and populations of native plants appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform.

3.3.2.2 Alternative B

The Idaho rangeland health standard for special status animal species is being met on the allotments in Reeds Grove Group. Livestock grazing management under this alternative is expected to continue to meet the standard by maintaining or promoting healthy productive and diverse native animal habitat and populations of native plants appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform.

3.4 Riparian Areas, Water Quality, and Fisheries

3.4.1 Affected Environment – Riparian Areas and Fisheries

Five perennial stream segments cross Reeds Grove Group grazing area (Hopper Creek Allotment and Busch Individual Allotment), totaling 6.0 miles crossing public land. All streams were in good condition. Proper functioning condition ratings for Standard 2 (riparian vegetation) and Standard 3 (stream channel and floodplain) are combined and displayed in the table below.

Name of Stream Segment	Stream Code	Crossing Public Land		Functioning Condition
		Miles	Allotment	
Deer Creek	DEER-003.6	0.6 mile	Busch Ind #56	Proper Functioning Condition
East Fork Keithley Crk	EFKEI-000.5	1.5 miles	Hopper Creek #233	Proper Functioning Condition
Keithley Creek	KEITH-005.9	0.6 mile	Hopper Creek #233	Proper Functioning Condition
Keithley Creek	KEITH-009.7	1.6 miles	Hopper Creek #233	Proper Functioning Condition
Hopper Creek	HOPPE-004.3	1.7 miles	Hopper Creek #233	Proper Functioning Condition
TOTALS	5 segments	6.0 miles		

Keithly and East Fork Keithly creeks were rated in proper functioning condition for Standard 2 and Standard 3.

These streams featured healthy potential natural plant communities represented by a diverse assemblage of woody species. Understory species s were mostly inaccessible to livestock grazing and were often populated by native forbs favoring shady locations with high soil humus levels.

Keithly Creek and East Fork Keithly Creek both have perennial flow regimes. Hopper Creek and Deer Creek become seasonally dry. These streams were mostly hydrologically stable stream types. The banks of these streams were, within their capability, heavily vegetated with native trees and shrubs, and had more than 90 percent stable banks.

DEER-003.6 was in proper functioning condition for both Standard 2 and Standard 3.

Deer Creek was heavily protected by a densely-rooted black hawthorn community. This stream had been moderately incised in the distant past, but is now heavily vegetated and hydrologically stable.

East Fork Keithley and Keithley Creek met IDEQ standards for cold water biota and salmonid spawning. Hopper and Deer creeks each met standards for seasonal cold water biota.

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences – Riparian Areas and Fisheries

3.4.2.1 Alternative A

Streams would remain in proper functioning condition through the long term as they are protected from grazing by very dense woody vegetation that helps to minimize or prevent livestock grazing along the riparian areas. Also, the current season of use allows no grazing during the summer “hot season” grazing period, and is a recognized best management practice which reduces livestock use in the riparian areas along these streams.

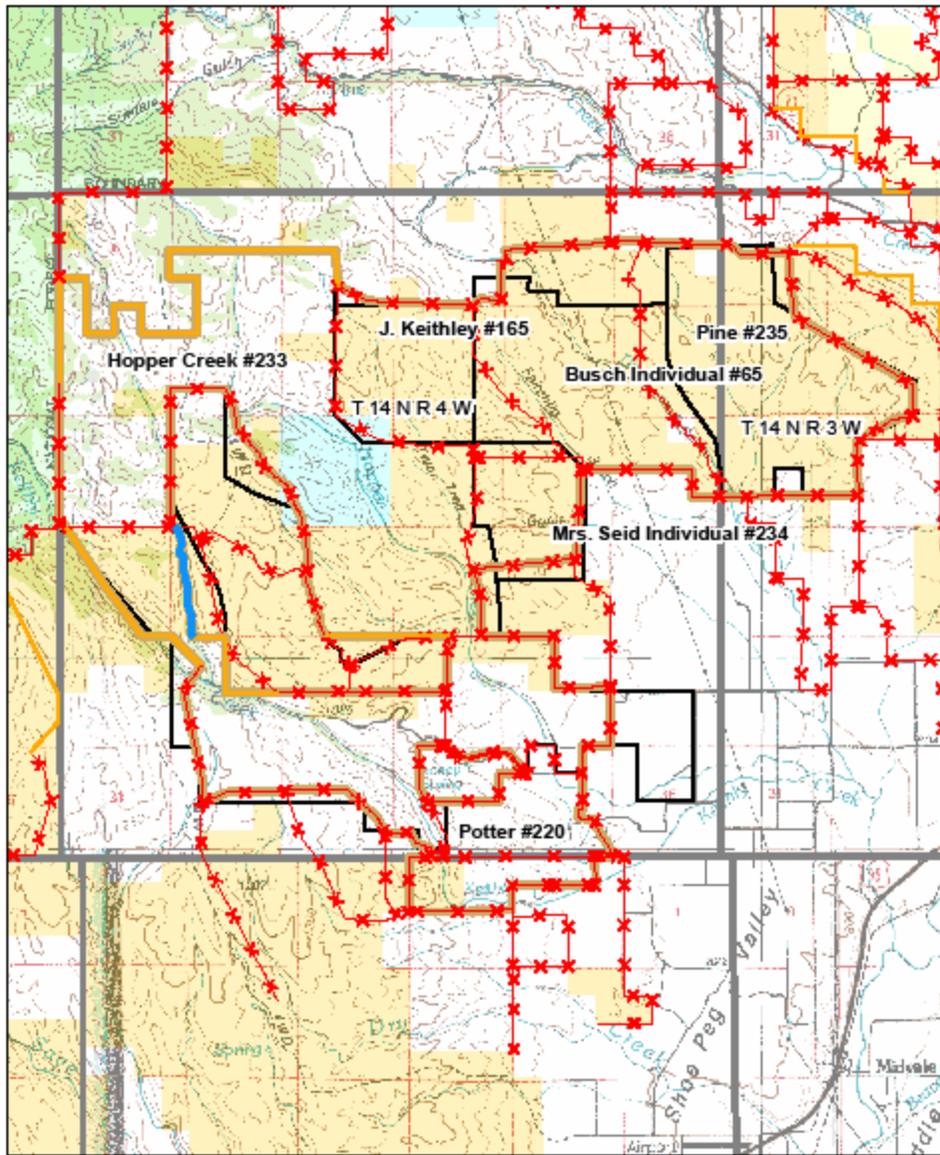
IDEQ water quality standards would continue to be met over the short through long terms.

Streams with salmonid fisheries would continue to support healthy and viable populations of redband trout over the short through long terms

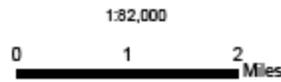
3.4.2.2 Alternative B

The environmental consequence from implementing the proposed action would be identical to Alternative A.

Reed's Grove Allotment #1365



Map Legend	
	Fence
	Water Boundary
	Closure Line
	Proposed Allotment Boundary
	1988 Management Plan
	BLM
	BCR
	USFS
	State
	Private



8/25/2008, 62508_ReedsGrove.mxd
 R:\OriginalProjects_GIS\State\FourRivers\F0\Range\Goodrich\Goodrich_2008\Maps\Goodrich_EA_2008
 No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.

